

Past Christmas Shows

- 1974 Cinderella Charleston
- 1975 Jack and the Beanstalk
- 1976 Turn again Scrooge
- 1977 Turnabout!
- 1978 Ghoul, Frankenstein and Mirth
- 1979 Idol Days
- 1980 Superdame, the Panto
- 1981 Way Out West
- 1982 Acropolis Now!
- 1983 Sir Merryman
- 1985 Backstage!
- 1986 Haggis in Wonderland
- 1987 Dame Sherlock
- 1988 Jack and the Beanstalk
- 1989 Pantomummy
- 1990 Cindy-Ella
- 1991 Oedipuss in Boots
- 1992 Way Out West
- 1993 Snow White
- 1994 Home Alone III, (A Lad in London)
- 1995 P.A.N.T.O.O.7.
- 1996 Dick Whittington
- 1997 Ready Steady Goose
- 1998 Robin Hoodlum
- 1998 Turnabout!
- 2000 The Millennium Dame
- 2001 Cindy-Ella
- 2002 Aladdin & his Marvellous
Limehouse Lamp

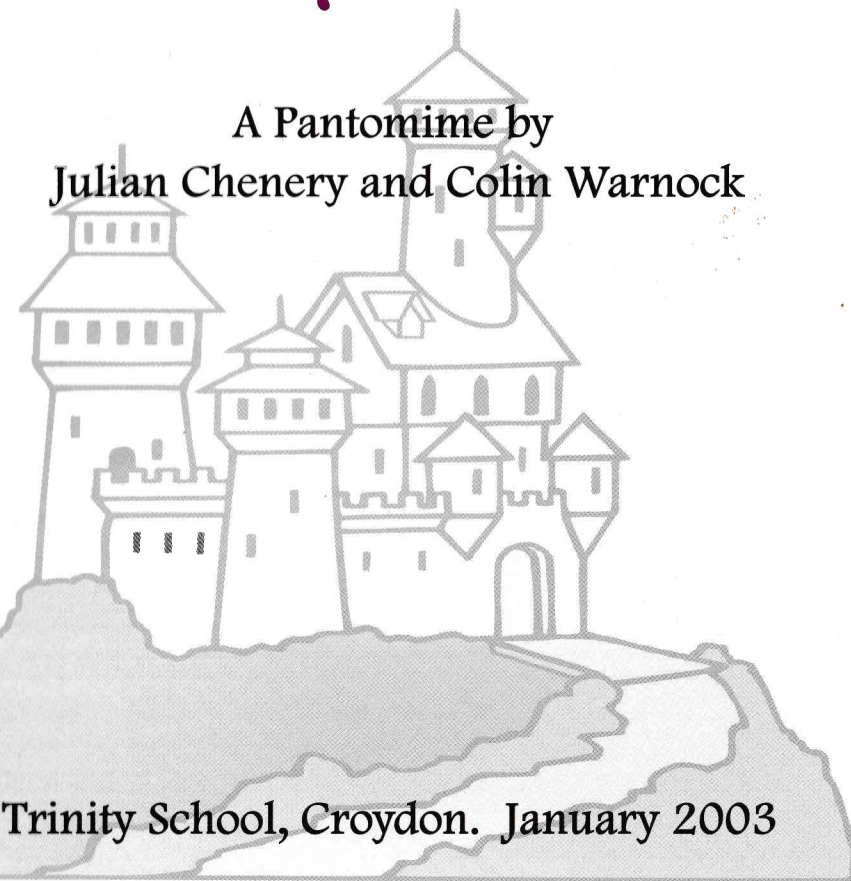


the mitre players

Present

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

A Pantomime by
Julian Chenery and Colin Warnock



Trinity School, Croydon. January 2003

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Welcome to Trinity School for our Christmas Panto, 'Beauty and the Beast' which is written by Julian Chenery (a member for many years), with score by founder member Colin Warnock, who has the penned music for more of our original shows than we care to remember.

This traditional story has been adapted in typical Mitres style and we hope you will find it entertaining and enjoyable.

2002 has been a busy year for us. It began with Aladdin, here at Trinity, which was closely followed by Dave Price's directorial debut with 'The Long and the Short and the Tall' at the OMWA Clubhouse. The summer saw our traditional tour to the West Country. Our production of 'Honk!' proved a huge success at the Minack Theatre and was awarded the Minack Trophy for the best production of the season. October saw another directorial debut, with Paul Longhurst guiding us through another successful musical, 'Bye Bye Birdie'.

Over the 2003 Easter break, Diana Dobson will be directing Alan Plater's comic drama, 'Peggy for You' at the Clubhouse. This is a play with strong language which allows us to explore another type of Theatre not familiar to us. The cast are eagerly looking forward to starting rehearsals. Further details can be found on the last page of this programme.

In Beauty and the Beast, we have more Trinity boys in the cast (and helping backstage) than we have had for many, many years and look forward to them maintaining their links with the Mitres as they get older and leave the School. This is the essence of what the Mitres are about, maintaining and furthering friendships that are formed in youth and continuing them into adulthood.

We have excellent links with the School and look forward to our joint production of 'Romeo and Juliet' in early July. We felt that performing Shakespeare would be a great challenge (as well as an educational project), especially since we have not done anything similar for at least five years.

We always attempt to stretch ourselves in our productions and rely heavily on the team of very skilled people that give their time in all areas of production. We are always on the lookout for people who would like to help in any way. This year we have a new, talented designer in Paul Bowles. Tonight's production has been designed by Paul (together with a lot of the set painting itself). It is his first time in this role, and we are thrilled with the result. We hope you agree.

May I wish you all a peaceful and prosperous 2003 and look forward to seeing you at some of this year's other productions.

Andy Thompson. Chairman.

The Mitre Players

(A section of the Old Boys' Association of Trinity School)

Present

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

based upon the famous French fairy tale "La Belle et la Bête"
by Jeanne-Marie Le Prince de Beaumont and earlier Mme. de Villeneuve

Book and Lyrics: Julian Chenery

Music: Colin Warnock

© 2002 Chenery & Warnock

Director: Julian Chenery

Co-Director: Dave Price

Musical Director: Colin Warnock

Designer: Paul Bowles

Thursday 9th to Saturday 11th January 2003

The Mitre Players would like to thank the Governors and Headmaster of Trinity School for allowing us to perform **Beauty and the Beast** in Big School and Eyre Maunsell, John Bertram and team for their invaluable help.

Please note that smoking is prohibited in the auditorium.
We would also respectfully remind you that the taking of photographs and the use of audio and video recording equipment is strictly forbidden.
Please remember to switch off all mobile phones & pagers. **THANK YOU.**

THE MITRE PLAYERS

OFFICIALS

President Chris Tarrant

Past President Robin Wilson

Vice-Presidents: Julia Ascott, Gillian Bartle, John Bartle,
Alan Bishop, Martin Garnett, Jack Griffin, Warwick Jones,
Peter Stockwell, Martin Tyrrell, Colin Warnock

CURRENT COMMITTEE

Chairman Andy Thompson

Secretary Julia Gibbs

Treasurer Alan Bishop

Additional Members: Ian Brown, Keith O’Gorman,
Dave Price, Clare Tibbalds, Anna Warnock

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

Box Office Manager Sheila Garnett

Theatre Club Organiser Colin Warnock

Membership Secretary Julia Ascott

The Mitre Players is the dramatic society of the Old Boys of Trinity School (The Old Mid Whitgiftian Association). We are a very friendly and sociable society, presenting 4 or 5 productions a year in a wide variety of venues. Putting on a show not only requires people on stage, but also involves a great deal of hard work behind the scenes. We design, build and paint our own sets, find and make our own props, make many of our own costumes and use “in house” musicians whenever possible.

We would welcome any new members, so if you have any aspirations to act, sing, dance or play a musical instrument, we would like to hear from you. If you prefer to remain out of the spotlight, building scenery,

lighting, painting, making costumes, making props, doing “Front of House” or simply would like to make tea for the team, we would still like to hear from you.

Most of our rehearsals take place at the Old Mid Whitgiftian Association Clubhouse in Sanderstead. The bar facilities at the clubhouse lend a social and convivial atmosphere to our rehearsals and all members are encouraged to use the facilities at Sanderstead as often as possible.

If you would like more information, please contact our Membership Secretary: Julia Ascott on 020 8239 1010 or visit our Web Site at www.themitreplayers.com

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, THE AUTHOR’S VIEW

Colin and I love pantos! Not just writing them; nor just in the professional sense of visiting shows to support our professional friends, colleagues, artistes and producers ... No, we love sitting in row three of the stalls and leading the cheering, hissing and booing. You see Colin and I are serial panto-goers. We travel all over the country from Woking to Wolverhampton from Milton Keynes to Manchester, sometimes together, sometimes not, but always to cheer on the good guys and help thwart the baddies from our seat in the audience, and every now and then we find time to write one together.

The first published version of the tale was written by Madame Gabrielle de Villeneuve, and published in *La jeune americaine* - all 362 pages of it. The more streamlined version that most people are familiar with is that of Madame Le Prince de Beaumont, first published in 1756 – which includes a chest of gold, a magic mirror and a ring.

Of course, most people these days will be more familiar with Walt Disney’s brilliant film and stage versions, and Colin and I have been most careful not to include any of Mr. Disney’s inventions that are not in the original tellings. This particular element of research even involved us sharing a glass of Guinness in Dublin with Beast himself, Gaston and the magic carpet

The underlying story remains the same – a formerly rich merchant returns from a business trip to Paris and has to shelter from a snowstorm in a mysterious castle. In the morning he

wanders into the garden where he sees the perfect rose for Belle. Upon plucking it, a hideous Beast appears and says that for his thievery he must die. The father begs for his life and, the Beast agrees to let him go if one of his daughters will take his place. If she refuses, then he must return to die himself.

On giving Belle the rose, her father cannot help but tell her what happened. She insists on taking her father’s place, and so she returns with him to the Beast’s palace where he reluctantly leaves her. This is the story of Belle’s path to true happiness, where she finds that Beauty is not just skin-deep, and in the end the Beauty and her “Beast” live happily ever after because their “contentment is founded on goodness.”

In this version we are delighted to have been able to include some of our favourite classic pantomime scenes which we wouldn’t dream of claiming as our own original work. Moments of educational madness, spooky slapstick and linguistic wordplay which are truly part of our theatrical pantomime cultural heritage and are among those we both cherish.

Along the way we have also managed to pay homage to the Mitre Players’ own “cultural” heritage and include a small tribute to the beauty of “French” musical theatre.

So if you’re wondering who those two ageing fools (combined age 93) are sitting “behind you” - it’s almost certainly us.

Julian Chenery

THE CAST

Hercules, A French Narrator	Nicholas Uglow
Papa, A formerly rich merchant	Fraser Macdonald
Charles, His eldest son	Lee McCready
André, His middle son	Dave Price
Edouard, His youngest son	Peter Bramwell
Catherine, His eldest daughter	Lorraine Titchener
Jacqueline, His middle daughter	Julia Gibbs
Belle, His youngest and most beautiful daughter	Kelly Beard
Dame Gertie Gusteau, The Village schoolteacher	Jolyon Roberts
Jean-Martin Le Guerre, Suitor to Belle	Neil O'Gorman
Jacques Gusteau, Madame Gusteau's son	James Beal
OT, A pantomime Donkey	Paul Grace and Lucy Thompson
Maitre D', The Castle's chief servant	Richard Jones
The Beast, A Beast	Alan Merricks
Fairy, A good fairy	Carolyn Burton
Carlotta, An aging diva	Ann Bowden
Ye Olde Wizard of Warwick, A wise old wizard	Warwick Jones
The Count of Misty Cronto, A handsome Count	James Smoker

Villagers, staff at the Chateau and members of the company of the Miserable Scarlet Hunchback of the Opera:

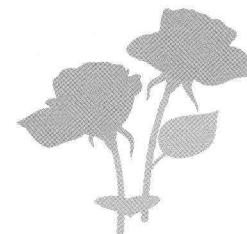
Julia Ascott, John Bartle, Matt Beal, Katherine Bottomley, Joss Brazier, Annabel Burton, Carolyn Burton, Emma Chenery, Olivia Chenery, Sam Cook, Clare Dempsey, Martin Garnett, Jerri Goater, Sebastian Gogerly, Megan Harries-Rees, Mary Holton, Anna Howard, Matthew Hyder, Richard Jones, Stellina Papachristou, David Payne, Anant Shah, James Sheldrake, Tanya Smith, Katherine Smoker, Teddy Walker and Hannah Wilberforce.

Children:

Nathan Ascott, Oliver Ascott, James Backway, Leah Casey, Georgina Chenery, Will Chenery, Ciara Daly and Vicky Gunner

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Director Julian Chenery	Stage / Technical Crew and Construction Chris Bassett Francesca Binefa Sue Carter Alan Collins Martin Garnett Tom Glyn Paul Grace Nic Lee Fraser Macdonald Lou Parrish Julian Parsons Dave Richards Jan Richards Paul Smith Adam Tibbalds Charles Thomas Patrick Winter	Programme Alan Bishop Anna Warnock
Co-Director Dave Price		Rehearsal Pianists James Beal Jonathan Butcher Keith O'Gorman
Musical Director Colin Warnock		Musical Arrangements Colin Warnock
Choreographers Julia Ascott Kelly Beard Clare Tibbalds Lorraine Titchener		Production Secretaries Julia Ascott Julia Gibbs
Set Designer and Scenic Artist Paul Bowles		Foyer Display Clare Tibbalds
Stage Manager Gillian Bartle	Costumes made by Laurie Ansell Julia Ascott Carolyn Backway Gillian Bartle Liz Dawe Diana Dobson Sheila Garnett Eileen Gibbs Ann Macdonald Rosemary Saw Margaret Stockwell Anna Warnock Jillian Wilson	Box Office Sheila Garnett
Construction Supervisor Colin Parrish		Front of House and Refreshments Martin Garnett, Sheila Garnett and Friends of the Mitre Players
Lighting Designer Alan Bishop		
Sound James McLeod		
Costume Supervisor Anna Warnock		
Dame's Costumes Sue Shimell	Props Mary Holton	
Special Effects Andy Thompson	Photography Charles Marriott	



ACT ONE

THE VILLAGE OF MITRE SUR LA MER

Bonjour Dame, Villagers, Belle, Jean-Martin

THE VILLAGE SCHOOLROOM

La Plume De Ma Tante Dame, Belle and Schoolchildren

THE DARK WOODS BETWEEN THE VILLAGE AND PARIS

THE GREAT HALL OF THE BEAST'S CASTLE

Invisible Servants Château Staff

THE AUDITIONS FOR

"THE MISERABLE SCARLET HUNCHBACK OF THE OPERA"

Hunch! (Prequel) Jean-Martin

THE VILLAGE OF MITRE SUR LA MER

Papa's Back The Family

THE GREAT HALL OF THE BEAST'S CASTLE

Invisible Servants (Reprise) Château Staff
If The Rose Tree Dies Château Staff

THE VILLAGE HALL - REHEARSALS

THE VILLAGE HALL - FIRST NIGHT

Hunchback of the Opera Jean-Martin, Carlotta
Do You Hear The Steeple Ring? The Zimmer Chorus

ACT TWO

THE VILLAGE OF MITRE SUR LA MER

Get The Beast Jean-Martin, Dame and Company
The Gateau Song Jacques, Dame, Papa, Brothers, Sisters

THE GREAT HALL OF THE BEAST'S CASTLE

The Haunted House Dame, Papa, Brothers, Sisters

THE WIZARD OF WARWICK'S DEN

THE GARDEN OF THE BEAST'S CASTLE

Beauty And The Beast The Company

THE BAND

Piano/Conductor	Colin Warnock
Flute	Nicola Dempsey
Clarinet	Gareth Edmunds
Clarinet/Bass Clarinet	Barnaby Jones
Clarinet/Alto Sax	Chris Ash
Tenor Sax	Will Sansom
Trumpet	Jon-Mark Nesbitt
Trombone	Charlie Mason
Cello	Sophia Linehan
Keyboards	Keith O'Gorman
Drums/Percussion	Craig Backway

There will be a twenty minute interval during which refreshments will be served in the foyer and restaurant.

JAMES BEAL (Jacques).

Jimbo has played a number of small roles over the years including most recently Private Whittaker in **The Long and the Short and the Tall** (guess which one he was) and Billy, the (smallest) Duckling in **Honk!**. He now plays the much larger part of Jacques the Dame's only (but very small) son. He can't wait till we do Snow White again when he and his six mates can really get their teeth into another large small part.



KELLY BEARD (Belle).

Kelly hasn't done a panto for a couple of years and now she remembers why - too many old jokes! When she told everyone she was starring in **Beauty and the Beast** she was asked if she was playing the Beast! Very funny!! Aside from this Kelly has really enjoyed rehearsals, especially choreographing the kiddies' number. Kelly has been in many Mitre shows and has also been involved in shows at the Barn Theatre, Oxted where she played her favourite role, Audrey, in **A Little Shop of Horrors**.



ANN BOWDEN (Carlotta).

Ann has been awaiting the call to star in **Sunset Boulevard** for many years and is delighted that, at last, she is to have a brief but spectacular 'Norma Desmond' moment on stage. A Mitre Player for 18 happy years, she has over 20 productions and numerous principal roles to her credit. Ann has directed 2 productions for the Mitres, including last year's **Aladdin** when she fell ill just before the dress rehearsal and did not see a single performance!



PAUL BOWLES (Designer).

Currently studying at Camberwell Art College, Paul has given up his 3 week Christmas break to design and paint the set. If he doesn't get any better offers he hopes to pursue set design as a career. Observant members of the audience will have seen him fishing around for a part in our recent production of **Honk!** as well as acting in **Aladdin** and **The Long and the Short and the Tall**. Paul would like to thank all the crew who have helped him 'realise' the set.



PETER BRAMWELL (Edouard).

The Co-Director persuaded Brammers to appear in this show one night at the Dog and Duck, by telling him he wouldn't have to sing, dance or act - which is just as well. Earlier this year, he played the one who shouted a lot in **The Long and the Short and the Tall**. For CODA he has played various parts where he has shouted a lot including most recently Pooh-Bah in **The Mikado** and chorus in **Anything Goes**.



JULIA GIBBS (Jacqueline).

Julia first joined the Mitre Players in 1978 and therefore (after 25 years) is shortly due for parole based on good behaviour for learning her lines and rehearsal attendance. Julia's last appearances have been as Mrs. Merkle (**Bye Bye Birdie**) and Henrietta in **Honk!**. Other favourite roles include Regan (**King Lear**), Beatrice (**Much Ado About Nothing**) and Mrs. Kendall (**The Elephant Man**). Julia is delighted to be marrying fellow Mitre Player, Chris Bassett, in February - ahh!



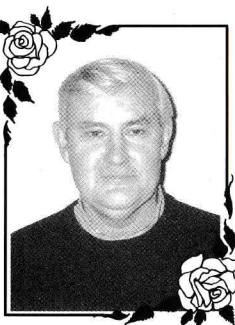
WARWICK JONES (Ye Olde Wizard of Warwick).

Warwick was extremely grateful to the Mitre Players when asked to play a 'towering tragic figure in the mould of Lear' in this production. Rarely seen on stage these days, mainly due to not being cast, he feels that at last he has been given a part commensurate with his talents; a feeling shared by the society as a whole.



FRASER MACDONALD (Papa).

Relieved not to be dressing up in women's clothing for the third successive year, Fraser has hung up his challenge bra and is drawing on his long experience as a languages teacher at Trinity to play the role of Papa (note the authentic French accent!). Previous pantomime credits include King Rat, a mad professor and a bagpipe-playing Dame. He also recently played the part of Paul Bultitude in the revival of **Turnabout**.



LEE MCCREADY (Charles).

This is Lee's first venture into the world of the Mitres - only a naval career, a drunken fugue and marriage have come between his school drama career and **Beauty and the Beast**. Seeing **Cindy-Ella** and **Bye Bye Birdie** spurred him to audition and here he is! Lee has had a great time and can't wait for the next production.



ALAN MERRICKS (The Beast).

Alan's wife and children are looking forward to watching him playing himself, although his appearance may have changed for the better in this panto! Alan is beginning to fear being typecast as his last panto role was also a large, loud, over the top type as Dan Dean in **Cindy-Ella**. He is looking forward to the day when the Mitres have a go at **Jaws**. Alan has been impressed with **Beauty and the Beast** from the first rehearsal, and is sure that a great time has been had by all. Happy New Year!



NEIL O'GORMAN (Jean-Martin Le Guerre).

Neil, known to his friends as the 'Lord of Darkness', is the most popular person in the cast and is very lovely and funny. Everyone wants to be like him and, in fact, he has had several problems with members of the cast trying clothes on during rehearsals. This wouldn't be a problem, but he is usually wearing them at the time! Boom, boom! Neil is a librarian and a professional lollipop man which is very nice.



DAVE PRICE (André/Co-Director).

The truest shot, the finest blade, the greatest brer - all these are accolades that belong to other members of the cast! Dave, however, has the baldest head, the dodgiest taste in trousers and the second loudest voice (probably). Since his directorial debut with **The Long and the Short and the Tall** last year, Dave now only does shows with weapons in. He's looking forward to the stage version of **Apocalypse Now**.



JOLYON ROBERTS (Dame).

Holder of the Legion D'Honneur, "friend" to Juliette Binoche and toast of the Champs Elysee, Jolyon (think Joe Le Taxi) makes this appearance for the Mitre Players under heavy security. The big guy behind you (don't look now but, yeah, that's him) is here to ensure there is no repeat of his famous show for the DIY theatre company in Walton-on-Thames where 25,000 delirious fans showed up, many waving lingerie. An international incident, culminating in a fist fight between Blair and Chirac, ensued. Jolyon asks that flowers and larger gifts are left with the stage manager.



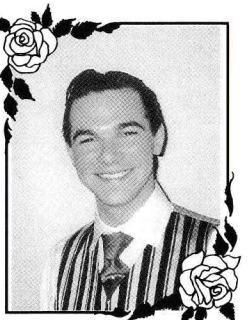
LORRAINE TITCHENER (Catherine).

Lorraine is no stranger to pantomime although she is stranger than most. Her first pantomime was **Robin Hoodlum** where she played a showgirl - and her roles have gone from strength to strength. Since then Lorraine has played a conniving, money-grabbing harlot, a seventeen year old girl, an American and, more recently, a tap-dancing bimbo! Phew! What a versatile girl she is!



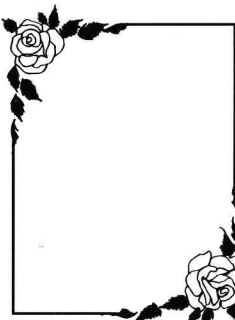
NICHOLAS UGLOW (Hercules).

Nicholas has been with Mitres for three years and has been in most shows since **Cindy-Ella**. He is currently a sixth-former at Trinity School where he seems to find enough time to make his own costumes and distinctive clothes. Nicholas is hoping to study English Literature at university after a gap year working in Savile Row. He is Noel Coward in his spare time.



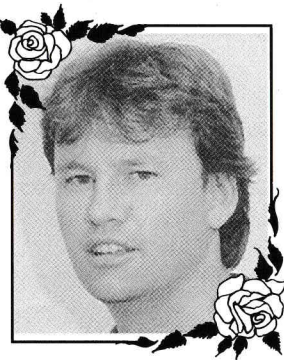
HELEN HARRIES-REES.

Helen isn't in this production (hence the missing photo) but that's no reason not to give her a programme note nor to expect that she will appear in several newspaper reviews.



JULIAN CHENERY (Writer/Director)

has been with the Mitre Players for about 20 years (some would say 20 years too long) and has been in many of their best shows, including a memorable performance as Billy Flynn (Chicago) where he'd upset the band so much they refused to play. He wrote the tragedies that were Haggis in Wonderland, Snow White and Home Alone III: A Lad in London and has added numerous last minute songs to shows where we have run out of time to write anything better. His best four productions are undoubtedly his four kids all of whom appear together here on stage for the very first time. During the day (and night) he is the Creative Director of Shakespeare 4 Kidz.



COLIN WARNOCK (Composer/Musical Director)

Whisper it softly but later this year Colin hits a very important milestone - HE'LL BE FIFTY!! (presents/cheques c/o the OMWA) That means he will have been in about a thousand Mitre productions, written a million songs and arranged even more, all while working at the prestigious Laine Theatre Arts where he helps train the stars of tomorrow. Still married to the beautiful Polish princess Anna and father of Ben, the pet count at Château Warnock is currently; cats 1 (Jolson), hamsters 1 (Hannibal) and pondfish (30).



The Mitre Players

Present

THE MADNESS OF GEORGE III

By Alan Bennett

The Mitre Theatre, Trinity School, Shirley Park

Thursday 23rd to Saturday 25th October

Box Office: Sheila Garnett: 020 8650 7882

The Mitre Players

present

Peggy For You

Alan Plater's comic drama



Wednesday 2nd - Friday 4th April 2003 at 8pm

OMWA Clubhouse

Lime Meadow Avenue, Sanderstead

Box Office: Sheila Garnett 020 8650 7882

THIS PRODUCTION CONTAINS STRONG LANGUAGE THROUGHOUT

An amateur production, by arrangement with Samuel French Ltd.